



State of Louisiana

Gaming Control Board

M. J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

HILLARY J. CRAIN
CHAIRMAN

DECISION OF THE LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

IN RE: LESLIE BONANO, INC. D/B/A BRAWLIN IN N'AWLINS P082601495

This is an appeal by permittee, Leslie Bonano, Inc. d/b/a Brawlin in N'Awlins, P082601495, of the decision of the Hearing Officer upholding the denial of it's renewal application for a non-gaming supplier permit by the Louisiana State Police, Riverboat Gaming Division ("Division").

Brawlin in N'Awlins was notified that the Division was denying it's renewal application for the following reasons: 1) owner Leslie Bonano's association with Banner Promotions, owned by Arthur Pelullo, an organized crime family associate, Frank Caracci, a reputed New Orleans mob figure and convicted felon, Robert Guidry, a convicted felon, and Mike Stuebben who has a history of felony convictions for gambling offenses; 2) failure to disclose Carlos Wegner and Allen Jeager as associates of permittee; 3) failure to list all income for the 1998 personal and corporate income tax return; and 4) the Louisiana Gaming Control Board's denial of permittee's state certification for Indian gaming.

The Hearing Officer found that the failure to disclose Carlos Wegner's association with the permittee and the failure to list all income were not sufficient grounds to deny the renewal

application.¹ We agree and adopt his findings of fact on these issues.

In our decision of June 21, 2000, *In Re: Leslie Bonano, Inc.*, we found that Leslie Bonano's association with Pelullo, Caracci, Guidry, and Stuebben and his failure to disclose a material fact supported the denial of state certification as a non-gaming supplier. Our decision was upheld by Judge Curtis A. Calloway, Suit No. 477,687, Division J, 19th Judicial District Court, April 17, 2001. An appeal of the 19th JDC decision was taken by Leslie Bonano, Inc.

The Hearing Officer, in rendering his decision in this matter, followed the Board's prior decision, quoting language regarding the association of Bonano with the named unsavory individuals.

Appellant argues that the Hearing Officer did not make an independent finding of facts regarding Bonano's association with Pelullo, Caracci, Guidry, and Stuebben. This is incorrect. The Hearing Officer independently chose to follow the decision of the Board in the Indian gaming matter as it dealt with the identical issue of Bonano's association with unsavory individuals and was supported by evidence presented in this matter. This was the Hearing Officer's finding of facts and ruling of law. Just as we adopt a Hearing Officer's finding of facts and legal analysis in some matters, so too is it legally valid for a Hearing Officer to do the same with finding of facts and rulings of law of the regulatory agency. It is unnecessary to reach the issue of the binding or controlling nature of this Board's decisions on a Hearing Officer.

Louisiana Revised Statute 27:70 provides, in pertinent part:

A. No person shall be eligible to receive a license to conduct gaming operations on a riverboat or any license or permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter unless the division finds that:

¹ The Division did not pursue the issue of the failure to disclose Allen Jeager's association with the permittee at the hearing.

(1) The applicant is a person of good character, honesty, and integrity.

(2) The applicant is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state or the effective regulation and control of gaming, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of gaming or the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto.

Mr. Bonano is a retired New Orleans City and Orleans Parish law enforcement officer. He was employed in that capacity for 27 years, beginning in 1965 and ending in 1992. He testified that he knew that Frank Caracci was connected with the mob and a convicted felon. With this knowledge, Bonano still chose to be employed by a company that had a close business association with Caracci and, in fact, Bonano was charged by Robert Guidry with handling Caracci personally.

Bonano also chose to be closely associated with Arthur Pelullo after it was public knowledge that Pelullo was “with” an organized crime family. It is undisputed that Pelullo’s mob association was public knowledge at least at the time of the federal court case² wherein the court found this association had been established as fact. The decision was rendered in 1994. Also, the Pennsylvania Crime Commission and the New Jersey Commission of Investigation issued reports containing information about Pelullo’s association prior to the time that Bonano worked with Pelullo. The business association between the two men begin in 1996 or 1997.

Bonano also worked for Robert Guidry whose company, A-Ace Video Gaming, Inc., associated Caracci, paying him 25% for each video gaming location brought to A-Ace. The evidence presented in this matter also shows that Bonano was associated with Mike Stuebben, knowing him to be an “unsavory character.”

Leslie Bonano’s association with known organized crime figures and convicted felons

² *United States v. DiSalvo*, 34 F. 3d. 1204 (3 Cir. 1994).

requires the denial of the renewal application in that La. R.S. 27:70 mandates that a person whose prior activities and associations pose a threat to the public interest of this state or to the effective regulation and control of gaming is ineligible to receive a permit.

The finding of facts and ruling of law by the Hearing Officer is clearly supported by evidence presented and by statute. The fact that it is consistent with our previous ruling in *In Re: Leslie Bonano, Inc.* does not render it legal error.

ORDER

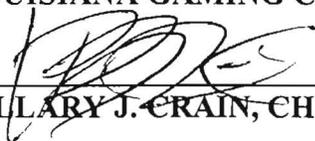
This matter having been considered by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board in open meeting of July 17, 2001:

IT IS ORDERED THAT the decision of the Hearing Officer upholding the Division's denial of the renewal application for a non-gaming supplier of Leslie Bonano, Inc. d/b/a Brawlin in N'awlins, P082601495, is **AFFIRMED**.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED this 17th day of July, 2001.

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

BY:


HILLARY J. CRAIN, CHAIRMAN

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT A CERTIFIED
COPY HAS BEEN MAILED OR SERVED ON
ALL PARTIES THIS 18th DAY
OF July, 2001
APPEAL DOCKET CLERK
Harshyn A. Coleman

STATE OF LOUISIANA
GAMING CONTROL BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
JANUARY 30, 2001

WILLIAM H. BROWN
HEARING OFFICER

IN RE: LESLIE BONANO, INC. D/B/A
BRAWLIN IN N'AWLINS

NO. P082601495

IN RE: LESLIE BONANO, INC.
D/B/A BRAWLIN IN N'AWLINS

NO. P082601495

APPEARANCES:

For the State of Louisiana

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For Leslie Bonano, Inc.

Brett A. Sulzer
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STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Leslie Bonano, Inc. ("Bonano") submitted a renewal application for state approval as a non-gaming supplier for riverboat casinos on or about March 13, 2000. The Louisiana State Police, Riverboat Gaming Division ("Division") sent Bonano a Notice of Denial dated July 24, 2000. The denial letter listed reasons for denial as:

1. Leslie Bonano's association with Banner Promotions with as a matchmaker. Banner Promotions is a Pennsylvania based boxing promotion company owned by Arthur Pelullo, who is described by the new Jersey organized Crime Report and the Pennsylvania Crime Report as a Scarfo family associate.
2. Leslie Bonano's employment with A-Ace Video as office manager and his association with Frank Caracci and Robert Guidry.
3. Association with Mike Stuebben.
4. Failure to list Carlos Wegner as a business associate or managerial employee of Brawlin In N'Awlins.
5. Failure to list all income for the 1998 personal and corporate income tax return.

On July 27, 2000 Bonano requested an administrative hearing.

STATE'S EXHIBITS:

State Exhibits 1-56 are attached.

BONANO'S EXHIBITS:

Bonano Exhibits 1-14 are attached.

APPLICABLE LAW:

La. R.S. 27:70 Gaming operator license and permits; suitability

- A. No person shall be eligible to receive a license to conduct gaming operations on a riverboat or any license or permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter unless the Division finds that:
- 1 The applicant is a person of good character, honesty, and integrity.
 - 2 The applicant is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state or to the effective regulation and control of gaming, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of gaming or the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto.

La. R.S. 27:82 Supplier and other permits; disqualification criteria

- D. A person is ineligible to receive a supplier's or other permit, if;
- 1 The person fails to meet the qualifications of R.S. 27:70
 - 2 The person has submitted an incomplete application for a permit or license under this Chapter or submitted an application which contains false information
 - 4 The firm or corporation is one in which a person defined in Paragraphs (1), (2) or (3) of this Subsection is an officer, director, or managerial employee.

L.A.C. 42:XIII.2111 License or permit disqualification criteria

- A. The division shall not award a license or permit to any person who is disqualified on the basis of any of the following criteria:
- 1 failure of the applicant to prove by clear and convincing evidence that he is qualified in accordance with the provisions of the act;

- 2 failure of the applicant to prove by clear and convincing evidence that he is qualified in accordance with the provision of these regulations

L.A.C. 42:XIII.2113 Gaming operator license and permits; suitability

- A. No person shall be eligible to receive a license to conduct gaming operations on a riverboat or any license or permit issued pursuant to the provisions of the act or these regulations unless the division finds that:
 - 1 the applicant is a person of good character, honesty, and integrity;
 - 2 the applicant is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state or to effective regulation and control of gaming, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of gaming or the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION:

In a companion case, "In Re: Leslie Bonano, Inc., No. I032611559" this Hearing Officer submitted written reasons on April 5, 2000 covering some of the same issues in this hearing. That decision is attached hereto for referencing to the same issues. I previously found that Bonano's matchmaking for Banner Promotions should not brand him as being associated with organized crime. Banner Promotions had legitimate promotional licenses in each state that Mr. Bonano provided boxers, even in Louisiana in 1999.

Also cited, as a denial of the renewal application was Mr. Bonano's association with Robert Guidry and Frank Caracci. This association arose when Mr. Bonano was employed as an office manager for eleven months in 1992-1993 for A-Ace Video Gaming Co., Inc., a draw poker owner company licensed by the Division. Subsequent to Mr. Bonano's departure with A-Ace Video Gaming Co., Inc., the Division found Mr. Guidry suitable to obtaining a riverboat gaming license. In 1998 Robert Guidry plead guilty to a charge of conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act extortion (Exhibit State-39). The Division suggests the 1998 conduct of Mr. Guidry should be saddled on Mr. Bonano. I did not so believe in the April 5, 2000 written reasons.

A newspaper article proved Mr. Bonano's association with Mike Stuebben? The Division submitted a news article (Exhibit State-43), which quoted Mr. Bonano as stating Mickie and Mike Stuebben were helping to organize an amateur boxing team by providing facilities. Mr. Bonano denied any association with Mike Stuebben.

The Division has suggested that Mr. Bonano did not list all principal officers, directors, key employees and owners in the renewal application. This allegation was based on Exhibit State-45 which listed "BRAWLIN IN N'AWLINS, INC. as a trade name registered in May 1990 with Leslie Bonano and Carlos Wegner as owners of the trade name. Mr. Bonano testified that Carlos Wegner thought of the name "Brawlin In N'Awlins". When the trade name was originally filed, Mr. Wegner's name was place on the application. However, Mr. Bonano registered "Brawlin In N'Awlins" as a trade name December 29, 1999 and did not place Mr. Wegner's name on the application. State Exhibit-46, Application to Register Trade Name, line one shows the names of Leslie Bonano and Carlos Wegner. Mr. Bonano stated Mr. Wegnes' name was not on the application when he signed it. An examination of the documents shows a different pen and penmanship was used in inserting Mr. Wegner's name. State Exhibit-55, a certificate from the Secretary State, includes a true and correct copy of the application form filed with his office. The application form, line one, does not contain the name of Mr. Wegner.

Mr. Bonano testified that Mr. Wegner has never been associated with Leslie Bonano, Inc. in any capacity whatsoever. This testimony is undisputed. This item does not constitute sufficient reasons for the denial of the renewal application.

Lastly, unsuitability was alleged for failing to report all income in 1998. Mr. Dugas, Mr. Bonano's certified public accountant, testified Mr. Bonano unintentionally omitted \$2,900.00 on his 1998 personal tax return. Amendments have been filed with the Internal Revenue Service. Testimony revealed that Mr. Bonano reported in excess of \$51,000 on the corporate returns for which no 1099 statements were issued. Likewise, this item does not merit denial of the renewal application.

At the beginning of the hearing, it was suggested that the burden be on the applicant, Leslie Bonano, Inc. to show qualification. Presumably this was taken from the Gaming Control Board's reasons in "In Re: Leslie Bonano, Inc., 1032611559" wherein the Board stated:

"The Hearing Officer incorrectly placed the burden of proof on the Division. The applicant has the burden of proving its qualification for certification. Section 7(C)(1)(e)."

Section 7(C)(1)(e) of The Tribal-State Compact provides that the State of Louisiana may revoke, suspend, or deny a State certification if the applicant fails to prove their qualifications in accordance with the provisions of the Tribal-State Compact.

Since it was agreed that the burden was on the applicant, Leslie Bonano, Inc., to prove qualification, it presented evidence first. Perhaps this was a procedural error. What is the procedural law for applicants seeking a non-gaming supplier permits for riverboat casinos? La. R.S. 27:70 provides that no person shall be eligible to receive a license/permit unless the Divisions finds that...listed are several requirements, as good character, honesty, and integrity. La. R.S. 27:82 requires suppliers to meet the qualifications of R.S. 27:70. L.A.C. 42:XIII.2113 provides that no person shall be eligible to receive a license/permit unless the division finds that...listed are the same qualifications in R.S. 27:70.

L.A.C. 42:XIII.2111 tracks La. R.S. 27:76 in stating that the Division shall not award a license/permit to any person who is disqualified on the basis that the applicant failed to prove by clear and convincing evidence that he is qualified.¹

Whether a procedural error occurred in requiring Leslie Bonano, Inc. to present its evidence first, should not alter the decision in this case.

Inasmuch as the first three reasons for denial in the subject case are part of the reasons used by the Gaming Control Board in its denial of state certification in the matter "In Re: Leslie Bonano, Inc. No. 1032611559", I reluctantly feel compelled to following the decision of the Board, which stated:

"Mr. Bonano's character is not at issue. The basis for denial of Bonano's state certification was his association with unsavory individuals which would foster an appearance of impropriety and which would engender a situation which threatens the public interest in the integrity of gaming.

It is unquestioned that Arthur Pelullo, Frank Caracci, Robert Guidry and Michael Stuebben are unsavory characters. It is also undisputed that Mr. Bonano associated with Pelullo, Caracci and Guidry. It is reasonable to believe that Mr. Bonano associated with Mr. Stuebben. We find that these associations rise to the level of fostering or creating an appearance of impropriety and engendering a situation which threatens the public interest in the integrity of gaming".

¹ The Louisiana Gaming Control Board in "In Re: Marshall Fenn Communications, Inc. No. P086501352" held that La. R.S. 27:76 was not applicable for non-gaming supplier permits. Since L.A.C. 42:XIII.2111 tracks the language of La. R.S. 27:76, this regulation likewise, should not be applicable for non-gaming supplier permits. Is the burden on the Division to prove applicants for non-gaming supplier permits are not suitable?

Accordingly, the renewal application of Leslie Bonano, Inc., for a non-gaming supplier permit is denied.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 14 day of February 2001.



William H. Brown
Hearing Officer
Louisiana Gaming Control Board

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT A CERTIFIED
COPY HAS BEEN MAILED OR SERVED ON

ALL PARTIES THIS 14th DAY
OF February 2001

Alita Hayes
DOCKET CLERK, ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICE

cc: Brett Sulzer, Esq.
Mike Daniels, Esq.
Lt. Dune Morgan

A TRUE COPY ATTEST
LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
HEARING OFFICE
BATON ROUGE, LA 2-14-01

Alita Hayes
BY: CLERK

STATE EXHIBITS

1. Notice of hearing date, issued December 5, 2000
2. Leslie Bonano, Inc. d/b/a Brawlin in N'Awlins request for hearing
3. Notice of Denial, dated July 24, 2000
- 4a. Renewal Application for Leslie Bonano, Inc.
- 4b. Correspondence dated April 13, 2000 from Brett A. Sulzer
5. Decision of LGCB, In Re: Leslie Bonano, Inc. No. I032611559
6. Decision of LGCB, Motion for Rehearing
7. Banner Promotions' web page as of 2/24/2000
8. Banner Promotions' web page as of 3/28/2000
9. Banner Promotion's Connecticut Application for License to Promote
10. Photographs taken November 14, 1997
11. Banner Promotions' contract dated July 21, 1998, signed by Bonano & Pelullo
12. Newspaper article dated July 27, 1997 New Orleans Times-Picayune
13. Newspaper article dated August 31, 1997 in Baton Rouge Advocate
14. Newspaper article dated September 2, 1997 in Baton Rouge Advocate
15. August 14, 1997 agreement between Banner Promotions & Belle/Argosy
16. Newspaper article dated January 14, 1998 in Baton Rouge Advocate
17. December 23, 1997 agreement between Banner Promotions & Casino Rouge
18. Organized Crime in Boxing, Final Report, released December 16, 1985
19. Organized Crime in Pennsylvania, A Decade of Change, 1990 Report
20. Newspaper article dated October 14, 1994 in The Philadelphia Inquirer
21. United States v. Anthony DiSalvo and Robert F. Simone

22. Organized Crime in Bars, Part II, released June 1995
23. Arthur R. Pelullo v. State of new Jersey Commission of Investigation
24. United States v. Leonard Pelullo, decided March 18, 1999
25. Correspondence dated January 28, 2000 from Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission
26. Banner Promotions' web page as of 8/17/2000
27. Brawlin In N'Awlins' web page as of 11/3/2000
28. Original Application as Device Owner by A-Ace Video
29. A-Ace Video positions
30. Associate Agreement between A-Ace Video and Frank Caracci
31. Frank Caracci's A-Ace Video business card
32. A-Ace Video memorandum to Les Bonano re: Frank Caracci
33. Correspondence from Robert Guidry to Frank Caracci
34. Memorandum from Robert Guidry to Leslie Bonano
35. Device agreement and addenda signed for A-Ace by Frank Caracci
36. Four (4) device agreements signed by Bonano and Caracci
37. A-Ace Video profit chart
38. Frank Caracci's criminal history
39. Robert Guidry's conviction for extortion
40. Six (6) device agreements signed by Bonano
41. Four (4) device agreements signed by Stuebben and Caracci
42. Two (2) device agreements signed by Steven and Bonano
43. Newspaper article dated February 6, 1994 in New Orleans Times-Picayune

44. Mike Stuebben's criminal history
45. Application by Brawlin In N'Awlins for trade name
46. Renewal Application by Brawlin In N'Awlins for trade name
47. Secretary of State, selected trade name data
48. Correspondence from Tfc. Hal Hutchinson to Leslie Bonano
49. Leslie Bonano, Inc., income for 1998, filed with Indian Casino Gaming Division
50. Leslie Bonano, Inc., income for 1998, filed with Gaming Suitability Unit
51. 1998 Form 1099 issued by Master Video Poker to Leslie Bonano
52. Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Commission memorandum of 10/24/94
53. Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Commission 1/19/96 letter to Arthur Pelullo
54. Letter from Sam Macias to Mohegan Tribal gaming Commission 2/20/2000
55. Application to register trade name of Brawlin in N'Awlins
56. Louisiana Supreme Court decision, La. State Bar Association v. Sanford Krasnoff

BONANO'S EXHIBITS

1. 1998 personal and corporate tax return
2. Amending 1998 personal and corporate tax return
3. 1994 annual report for Pelican Amateur Boxing Association
4. Louisiana Secretary of State Selected Business Detailed Data Report
5. Mashantucket Pequot Tribal gaming Commission vendor license
6. Mashantuckett Pequot Gaming Commission's reinstatement
7. Banner Promotions, Inc.'s Louisiana Boxing & Wrestling license
8. Mississippi Gaming Commission letter stating suitability of Arthur Robert Pelullo
9. Mississippi Athletic Commission character letter for Art Pelullo
10. List of licenses held by Banner Promotions, Inc.
11. 2001 boxing and wrestling license issued to Les Bonano in Louisiana
12. Character letter for Les Bonano
13. Affidavit of Michael Matthews
14. Newspaper article from New Orleans Times-Picayune

STATE OF LOUISIANA
GAMING CONTROL BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
FEBRUARY 29, 2000

WILLIAM H. BROWN
HEARING OFFICER

IN RE: LESLIE BONANO, INC.

NO. I032611559

IN RE: LESLIE BONANO, INC.

NO: 1032611559

APPEARANCES:

For the State of Louisiana

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For Leslie Bonano, Inc.

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

By letter dated December 1, 1999 the Louisiana State Police, Indian Casino Gaming Division notified Leslie Bonano, Inc. of the denial of its original application for State Certification as a non-gaming supplier for an Indian Casino. The reasons cited for denial were:

1. Leslie Bonano, sole owner of Leslie Bonano, Inc., failed to disclose in his personal history application the names of five corporations that he had done business with during the past ten years.
2. Leslie Bonano's association with Banner Promotions as a matchmaker. Banner Promotions is a Pennsylvania based Boxing Promotion Company owned by Arthur Pelullo, who is described by the New Jersey Organized Crime Report and the Pennsylvania Crime Report as a Scarfo family associate.
3. Leslie Bonano's employment with A-Ace Video as office manager and his association with Frank Caracci and Robert Guidry.
4. Association with Mike Stuebben.

Leslie Bonano, Inc. requested an administrative hearing in accordance with the procedure outlined in a letter sent by the Louisiana Department of Justice, Gaming Division, on December 6, 1999.

STATE'S EXHIBITS:

The State has offered and filed in evidence the following exhibits:

1. Notice of Hearing Date
2. Review of Denial of Certification
3. Notice of Denial of Original Application
4. Application
5. Individual Personal History Form
6. Banner Promotions World Wide Web Site
7. Contract
8. State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection Application
9. Photos
10. 1990 Report-Pennsylvania Crime Commission
11. Final Boxing Report of the State of New Jersey
12. The Philadelphia Inquirer
13. Employee List
14. A-Ace Video Gaming Co., Inc. Agreement
15. Factual Basis
16. Newspaper Article
17. Individual Name Search Results
18. June 30, 1998 letter from Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
19. January 28, 2000 letter from Mohegan Tribal Gaming Commission
20. February 25, 2000 letter from Blackburn & Sulzer amending original application to include five business omitted by Leslie Bonano in his personal history application
21. Louisiana Secretary of State name search
22. Louisiana Secretary of State name search
23. Louisiana Secretary of State name search
24. Louisiana Secretary of State name search

APPLICANT'S EXHIBITS:

Leslie Bonano filed the following exhibits:

- B-1 May 8, 1998 letter from Mashantucket Pequot Gaming & Attachments
- B-2 February 15, 2000 letter from State Athletic Commission of Pennsylvania & Attachments
- B-3 Certificate of License
- B-4 Character Letters

APPLICABLE LAW:

Tribal/State Compacts Section 7(C) which states, in pertinent part:

Section 7(C)(1)(d): Fails to disclose or makes a misrepresentation of material fact to the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana or the State of Louisiana.

Section 7(C)(1)(n): Has created or fostered an appearance of impropriety, by virtue of their present or past activities, criminal record, reputation, habits, associations, or has otherwise engendered a situation which threatens the public interest in the integrity of gaming, the effectiveness of gaming regulation and control, or in fair and lawful practices, methods, and financial arrangements in gaming.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND DECISION:

Leslie Bonano was born October 13, 1942 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He attended local schools in New Orleans and began a law enforcement career with the New Orleans City Police in 1965. He retired from the City Police in 1981 and immediately was employed by the Orleans Civil Sheriff's office for the next ten years. He retired in 1992 as chief deputy. During employment with the Orleans sheriff's office he became interested in boxing and organized boxing events in prison.

After retiring as a sheriff's deputy, he was employed as a supervisor for A-Ace Video Gaming. A-Ace Video Gaming was licensed in Louisiana and owned by Robert Guidry. At the time of his employment with A-Ace Video Gaming he was involved in the boxing profession, as a promoter, matchmaker, and event coordinator. As a matchmaker he secured boxers for a promoter known as Banner Promotions, Inc., owned by Arthur Pelullo. In an effort to help local boxers obtain a training facility, he met with Mickey Stuebben about organizing a non-profit company to provide training facilities. He suggested using property she owned to house the facilities. The New Orleans Time Picayune published a story on February 8, 1994 describing Mike Stuebben as an interested party in providing the facilities.

On February 28, 1999 Leslie Bonano, Inc. filed an application for State Certification. Trooper Hal Hutchinson, an employee of the Louisiana State Police, Indian Casino Gaming Division, testified he conducted the suitability investigation on the application of Leslie Bonano, Inc. and found several reasons to recommend denial of the application. The factual reasons for denial were:

1. Listed in the denial letter were five different business names that Mr. Bonano did not list on page 6 (b) of his personal history, namely, Boxercise of America, Kushner Promotions, Jefferson Sports Commission, Read Seafood and Boxing on the Ice. Mr. Bonano testified he was not acquainted with Boxercise of America; that he was asked to be registered agent for Kushner Promotions, a foreign corporation, of which he is not a stockholder nor ever been compensated for being its registered agent; Boxing on the Ice was a corporation formed with Bill Shultz to promote two boxing matches, which certainly should have been disclosed. No questions were asked Mr. Bonano about Jefferson Sports Commission and Read Seafood.

Mr. Bonano attempted to amend his personal application as shown in State Exhibit-20. This court does not find Mr. Bonano intentionally failed to list the five businesses as shown in the denial letter. Further the court does not believe Mr. Bonano's involvement with these five businesses would threaten the public interest in the integrity of gaming.

2. A ground for denial was the allegation of an association with Banner Promotions. Arthur Pelullo, who had been described as having involvement with organized crime, owed Banner Promotions. Mr. Bonano testified he met Mr. Pelullo when he was asked to be a matchmaker for several fights Banner Promotions was sponsoring. Mr. Bonano introduced evidence wherein several states have approved promotional licensees for Banner Promotions, including, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Nevada and North Carolina. With these approvals Mr. Bonano stated he did not believe it necessary that he conduct his own investigation of Banner Promotions. As a matchmaker, Leslie Bonano, Inc. is not an employee of the promoter, but works as an independent contractor.

The court does not doubt the accuracy of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission and the New Jersey Commission of Investigation (State Exhibits 10-11). I do not believe these reports brand Mr. Bonano as being associated with organized crime

3. Another ground for denial of the application for State Certification was Leslie Bonano's prior employment with A-Ace Video Gaming. After retiring as a deputy sheriff Mr. Bonano was employed as a supervisor for A-Ace Video Gaming for one year. This company was licensed in Louisiana and provided video poker machines to establishments approved by the Louisiana State Police. A-Ace Video Gaming was owned by Robert Guidry who plead guilty to a federal crime described in State Exhibit-15. One of Mr. Guidry's associates was Frank Caracci, who has been described by the FBI as being in organized crime in New Orleans. While employed by A-Ace Video Gaming, Mr. Bonano signed several video poker leases as a witness. The Division has concluded his employment